

Doctors Scoff At Rumors Of Epidemic Here

Rumors of an epidemic of communicable disease here following the sudden death of two Torrance children within a few days of each other this week were discounted by medical authorities.

Doctors said scores of panic-stricken mothers are needlessly seeking preventive medical care on the basis of rumors of an epidemic of diphtheria or similar diseases.

Dr. Henry C. Smiley, county health officer at Torrance, said there has been no diphtheria in Torrance for five years and he handled the last case of smallpox here 10 years ago.

Autopsies of the two children, William Rathburn Briggs, and Phillip H. Gibson, Jr., showed no communicable diseases, the doctors said.

Dr. Eugene Lee Cook, who attended the Briggs child, said results of the autopsy that disproved diphtheria have not been completed, but he suspects death was caused by an overwhelming respiratory streptococcal infection, neither uncommon nor especially contagious.

An autopsy at the Queen of Angels Hospital, where the Gibson boy died, listed his death as due to acute laryngitis.

Both children exhibited symptoms of difficult breathing and died within a few hours of the onset of the symptoms.

Phillip Gibson, who was the nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Gibson of 1416 220th street, died January 24 at 2:30 a.m. The family moved to Torrance last September from Long Beach after Mr. Gibson acquired partnership in the Gibson and DeVore Home Appliance Company at 1875 West Carson street.

Funeral services at the Dillard Mortuary in Long Beach were conducted by Rev. Ralph W. Lee, minister of the First Methodist Church of Long Beach. Burial was in the Green Hills Cemetery near San Pedro. Besides his parents, he is survived by a sister, Janet, and a baby brother.

William Briggs, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Briggs of 1503 Greenwood avenue, died last Friday at his home. His father is an insurance salesman and was formerly personnel manager for the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation here. Graveside services were conducted at Holy

Cross Cemetery in West Los Angeles, Monday by Rev. P. J. McGuinness of the Catholic Church of the Nativity. Besides his parents, he is survived by a sister, Patricia, and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Rathburn of 1625 Elm street.

REALTY BOARD TO INSTALL NEW OFFICERS

James Schmitt, recently installed president of the Lomita Chamber of Commerce, will be installed as president of the Torrance Lomita Realty Board Saturday evening at the Smith Brothers Fish Shanty in Walsley.

W. E. Bowen, retiring president from Torrance, will preside over the program. He also will be installed as vice-president of the two city board.

Guest speaker of the evening is Robert Hager, a member of the Trojan Club.

Others to be installed include: Gretchen Earle, Torrance, secretary; Perry Connet, Torrance, treasurer; and board members—Edith S. Smith, Paul Vonderahe, James Elliott, Delbert Vaughn, and Paddy Ryan.

Chairmen of the various committees are: Edith Smith, ethics; Luther Mumford, legal; Gerald Aiter, multiple listing; and Monte Smith, publicity.

Installing officer is Barbara Moss of the Long Beach Realty Board.

Entertainment for the evening will be provided by the "Merry Mechanics"—a quartet from the offices of the Land Title Insurance Company.

Revealed at the meeting was the announcement that Elliott and Schmitt of Lomita tied with Percy and Vaughn of Torrance for first place in sales in the Torrance-Lomita Multiple Listing Service for the final quarter of 1949. Each had sales of \$34,650.

The Alter Realty and Insurance Co. of Torrance held second place with \$23,650.

Total sales in the two city organization were \$148,000. Total new listings amounted to \$995,501.17. Monty Smith, publicity chairman for the group, said.

Teen Club To Open Fridays

As a result of the growing popularity of the Torrance Teen Club, started at the Civic Auditorium last July, the club will be open in the future on Friday evenings from 5 until 11 p.m. as well as Saturday evenings, Lyman G. Nolan, director, announced this week.

The club, sponsored by the City Recreation Department, has added a new record changer and four new ping pong tables. Nolan said, and he is endeavoring to get an orchestra for dancing once a month.

Local Editor To Get Medal And Award

Mrs. Blanche Nagy, editor of National News, employee magazine of The National Supply Company, will accept on behalf of the company a medal and cash award from Freedom's Foundation at a noon luncheon February 13 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. The company's magazine placed eighth in the nation in a contest sponsored by the foundation aimed at promoting "a better understanding of the American way of life."

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